(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the annual sentinel surveillance conducted in 706 sites across the country has shown 5.2 million people living with HIV, an increase of 72,000 against the previous year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Currently, NACO has established 2672 counselling and testing centres throughout the country of them 380 are in medical colleges, 842 district hospitals/maternity hospitals and 1550 in community health centres/Public Health Centre (PHC).

In the next phase of the National AIDS Control Programme it is envisaged to have voluntary counselling and testing centres established in all community health centres and 24 hour primary health centres.

(c) and (d)As per 2005 Annual Sentinel Surveillance Report, there are 5.206 million HIV infection in the country whereas, the number of person with HIV infections in the country during 2004 were 5.134 million. Out of estimated adults living with HIV, 38.4% are female and 57% are from rural background. On average 0.88% ante-natal mothers, 5.66% of STD patients, 8.44% of female sex workers & 10.16% of injecting drug users were infected with HIV.

Financial upgradation under ACP scheme

3776. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is **a** fact that ACP scheme is being implemented in all departments/institutions under the administrative control of his Ministry;

(b) whether there have been cases of discrimination in respect of the Hindi Officers working in Central Research Institute, Kasauli who have been denied financial upgradation under the ACP scheme;

(c) if so, whether the responsibility will be fixed for the inordinate delay of more than three years in granting this upgradation;

(d) by when ACP will be given to the Hindi Officers of CRI;

(e)if so, the details thereof; and

(f)if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The proposals for Assured Career Progression (ACP) for Hindi Officers at CRI Kasauli will be considered by the Department Promotion Committee (DPC) after receipt of the complete Annua! Confidential Reports (ACRs) subject to vigilance clearance.

Qualification for a Ayurvedic practitioner

3777. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)what are the qualifications for a practitioner of Ayurvedic or any Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy;

(b)whether an AYUSH practitioner can prescribe Allopathic medicines or *vice-versa;*

(c)if not, the penalty for such transgression;

(d)whether it is a fact that in the name of ayurvedic medicines, mostly allopathic drugs are dispensed;

(e)if so, the details and cases of such nature detected;

(f)whether Government are considering to lay down guidelines for ISMs medicines, both classical and patent and proprietary medicines, and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A person possessing an Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani medical qualification recognized under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and registered in the State Register for Indian Medicine, is authorised to practice Ayurveda, Siddha or Unani Systems of medicines. A person possessing a Homoeopathy medical qualification recognized under the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1974 and registered in the State Register for